Action against service providers for sending unwanted messages

1668. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the cellphone service providers have been using unfair means to cheat their subscribers with repeated messages and offers;

(b) if so, whether it is not an undue interference in the personal life of the subscribers to constantly knock on the cellphones; and

(c) the details of action Government propose to take to stop the service providers from sending unwanted messages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Cell Phone Service Providers use various modes for marketing their services including Short Messaging Service (SMS). However, no specific case of cheating of subscribers by them with repeated messages and offers has come to the notice of Department of Telecommunications. In case a subscriber feels that SMS sent by the Cell Phone Service Providers for marketing their services is an undue interference in his personal life, he could take up the matter with his service provider to stop such messages.

Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

1669. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh which have been decided to be low graded or closed;

(b) the reasons for closure or low gradation of those Post Offices; and

(c) the details of the Post Offices which were closed or low graded during the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to low grade or close down any post office at present in Madhya Pradesh.

Details of post offices which were closed down during the previous year along with reasons (2004-05) in Madhya Pradesh are given in the Statement-I enclosed (*See* below).

An Extra Departmental sub post office or a sub post office is required to have a minimum workload of 5 hours per day and its annual loss should not exceed Rs. 2400/- per annum in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas.

The details of post offices which were low graded in Madhya Pradesh during the previous year (2004-05) due to non fulfilment of the aforesaid Departmental norms, are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of post offices which were closed down during the year 2004-05 *in Madhya Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of post office closed down	Date of closure	Reasons for closure
1.	Kharba Branch post office in District Khandwa	12-05-2004	Due to Submergence of the area in Narmada Sagar Dam.
2.	Kukdal Branch post office in District Khandwa	18-08-2004	Due to Submergence of the area in Narmada Sagar Dam.
3.	Dehri Sendhal BO in District Guna	16-07-2005	As per Departmental norm, a branch post office is required to serve a population of at least 3000 and the distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 3 Kms. in rural area. Dehri Sendhal branch post office is a Non-recoverable contribution Post Office and Non-recoverable contribution in respect of this Post Office was not forthcoming. The distance between Dehri Sendhal Extra Departmental Branch Post Office (EDBO) and nearest existing Post Office is 2 Kms. and population served by Dehri Sendhal (EDBO) is 1218. As such Dehri Sendhal (EDBO) was also not found justified on population and distance norms.

Statement-II

Details of Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices which were lowgraded to Branch Post Offices during the year 2004-05 in Madhya Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of sub post office	Loss per annom in Rs.	Work load Hours	Work load Minutes	Date of low gradation	Reasons
1.	Barud Extra Departmental sub post office, District Khandwa	33732.00	1	45		Not justified on income and work load norms.
2.	Balwada Extra Departmental sub post office, District Khandwa	105432.00	2	28	29-10-2004	Not justified on income and work load norms.
3.	Bahadurpur Extra Departmental sub post Office, District Khandwa	72384.00	2	35	01-01-2005	Not justified on income and work load norms.
4.	Anandpur Extra Departmental sub post office, District Vidisha	7593.00	2	18	01-01-2005	Not justified on income and work load norms.

Provision of phones in villages

1670. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provision of phones in villages has suffered because of dilution of the Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government were unable to persuade private companies to provide connectivity to Rural India and the entire social obligation was being borne by the BSNL; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is supporting creation of telecom infrastructure in rural areas. USOF had floated tenders for provision of Rural Cummunity Phones (RCPs) for 46,253 villages and Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in